IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 16-18, and CANCEL claims 19-21 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~printing apparatus~~printer to perform a printing operation by driving hardware provided thereto according to a printing command received from a user, comprising:

a firmware unit to store function information of a plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models, supported by a common firmware, of the ~~printing apparatus~~printer, and control the ~~printing apparatus~~printer to selectively perform the function of one of the plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models which corresponds to a model index designated by a manufacturer as the ~~printing apparatus~~printer is initialized, and

wherein the common firmware is a multi-model firmware that can be used in the plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~printing apparatus~~printer of claim 1, wherein the firmware unit comprises:

a storage unit to store the function information of the plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models therein;

a model index processing unit to store a model index designation command received from outside the firmware unit, extract from the storage unit the function information which corresponds to the model index designated by the model index designation command upon the initialization of the ~~printing apparatus~~printer, and output the extracted function information; and

a firmware driving unit to control the hardware to receive the function information and perform a corresponding function.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~printing apparatus~~printer of claim 2, wherein the firmware unit further comprises:

a data receiving unit to receive data from outside the firmware unit, and transmit the

model index designation command to the model index processing unit in response to the model index designation command being in the received data;

a data processing unit to receive the data excluding the model index designation command from the data receiving unit, and convert the data into corresponding printer language; and

a data printing unit to control the hardware to output the converted data onto a printing medium.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~printing apparatus~~printer of claim 3, further comprising a developing unit and a fusing unit to output the converted data onto the printing medium, wherein the developing unit and the fusing unit are controlled by the data printing unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~printing apparatus~~printer of claim 2, wherein the model index designation command is transmitted along with initialization files through a printer interface during the manufacturing of the ~~printing apparatus~~printer, so that the model index designation command is processed upon the initialization of the ~~printing apparatus~~printer.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~printing apparatus~~printer of claim 2, wherein the model index designation command is transmitted in a separate command file that is transmitted through a printer interface to be processed by the firmware unit.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of supporting a plurality of models of a ~~printing apparatus~~printer by a common firmware, the method comprising:

inputting a model index designation command and storing the command in a file of a printer in which the common firmware is installed, during a manufacturing operation;

confirming a model index designation command which designates a model index corresponding to one of the plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models on performing an initialization of the printer~~, during a manufacturing operation~~;

extracting function information corresponding to the one of the plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models which is designated by the model index designation command;

confirming a function of the designated model using the function information; and

performing the function, and

wherein the common firmware is a multi-model firmware that can be used in the plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the file is an initialization file of the printer~~further comprising:~~

~~inputting the model index designation command and storing the command in an initialization file; and~~

~~confirming the model index designation command by executing the initialization file~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the file is a separate file stored in the printer~~further comprising:~~

~~writing a separate file which stores therein the model index designation command;~~

~~storing the file in the printing apparatus through a printer interface; and~~

~~confirming the model index designation command by executing the file~~.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the function of a basic model that is previously set is performed in response to there being no function information corresponding to the designated model index.

11. (Currently Amended) A firmware unit of a ~~printing apparatus~~printer to control the ~~printing apparatus~~printer, wherein the firmware unit stores function information of a plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models, supported by a common firmware, of the ~~printing apparatus~~printer, and controls the ~~printing apparatus~~printer according to the function information corresponding to the ~~printing apparatus~~printer set at a time of manufacture, and

wherein the common firmware is a multi-model firmware that can be used in the plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models.

12. (Currently Amended) A firmware unit to control a ~~printing apparatus~~printer, wherein the firmware unit stores function information of a plurality of models of the ~~printing apparatus~~printer, and controls the ~~printing apparatus~~printer according to the function information corresponding to the ~~printing apparatus~~printer, with a storage unit to store the function information of the plurality of models, supported by a common firmware, of the ~~printing apparatus~~printer,

further comprising a model index processing unit to store a model index designation command received from outside the firmware unit by a manufacturer, extract the function

information corresponding to a model index designated by the model index designation command, and output the extracted information, and

wherein the common firmware is a multi-model firmware that can be used in the plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The firmware unit of claim 12, further comprising a data receiving unit to receive data from outside the firmware unit, and transmit the model index designation command to the model index processing unit in response to the model index designation command being in the received data.

15. (Original) The firmware unit of claim 14, further comprising a data processing unit to receive the data excluding the model index designation command from the data receiving unit and convert the data into corresponding printer language.

16. (Currently Amended) The firmware unit of claim 15, further comprising a data printing unit to control hardware of the ~~printing apparatus~~printer to output the converted data onto a printing medium.

17. (Currently Amended) The firmware unit of claim 11, further comprising a firmware driving unit to control hardware of the ~~printing apparatus~~printer to receive the function information and perform a corresponding function.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a ~~printing apparatus~~printer, the method comprising:

storing function information of a plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models, supported by a common firmware, of the ~~printing apparatus~~printer in the ~~printing apparatus~~printer,

designating a model from among the plurality of models at a time of manufacture, and

controlling the ~~printing apparatus~~printer according to the function information corresponding to the ~~printing apparatus~~printer, and

wherein the common firmware is a multi-model firmware that can be used in the plurality of ~~printing apparatus~~printer models.

19-21. (Cancelled)